Induction Furnaces in Punjab

2251. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of induction furnaces installed in different cities/towns of Punjab;

(b) how many furnaces are out of work on account of recession; and

(c) whether Government are working out some scheme to put life in the Steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) There are 89 induction furnaces installed in different cities/towns of Punjab. As per the survey conducted in 1997-98, 17 units are reportedly closed for various reasons, including inter alia sluggish demand conditions on account of slow down in the economy.

(c) As the steel industry has been delicensed and decontrolled, its fortunes depend entirely on market conditons. Within the industry, fortunes of individual companies depend upon a host of factors including the market strategies adopted to face competition. It is, however, expected that demand conditions for steel would improve consequent upon measures announced in the Budget for 1998-99 relating to import duties, housing and infrastructure sectors.

Aluminium Plants in Orissa

2252. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some Aluminium ar Alumina plants in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of the applications received from the private sector;

(c) the plants in that State where Aluminium and Alumina plants are proposed to be set up in Public Sector; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No, Sir. The Government have no proposal to set up any new Aluminium and Alumina Plants in Orissa in the public sector.

(b) Following companies in the private sector have submitted Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memorandum (IEM) to the Government for setting up aluminium/alumina plants in Orissa:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Location (District)	Item of Manufacture	Annual Capacity (Tonnes)	Date of Acknowledgement of IEM
1.	Orissa Extrusions Ltd.	Balasore	Unwrought Aluminium	7200	26.05.95
2.	Sterlite Industries (I) Ltd.	Kalahandi	Alumina	1000000	13.03.97
3.	Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Sambalpur	Aluminium not alloyed	30000	02.01.95
4.	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Sambalpur	Aluminium	250000	08.08.97
5.	Passary Minerals Ltd.	Sundargarh	Alumina, Calcined	2400	13.02.97
6.	Sterlite Industries (I) Ltd.	Jharsuguda	Aluminium Ingots	250000	13.03.97
7.	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Rayagada	Alumina	500000	08.08.97

Apart from the above, Government have allowed M/s. Utkal Alumina International (Pvt.) Ltd. and M/s. Larsen & Toubro to set up 100% export oriented units (EOU) alumina plants of one million tonne capacity each in orissa.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Modernisation of IISCO

2253. SHRI C. O. POULOSE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the five Central Trade Unions have submitted a joint memorandum to the Minister for Steel and Mines on the question of modernization of IISCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government on the points raised in the Memorandum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The five Central Trade Unions have submitted a joint memorandum to the Minister for Steel and Mines inter-alia requesting that IISCO as a whole should be modernised within the public sector framework preferably by SAIL in the overall interest of the industry and country.

(c) A proposal for modernisation of IISCO through SAIL, by utilisation of funds from the Steel Development Fund (SDF) is under consideration of the Government.

As IISCO has been referred to the BIFR, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

Restructuring of IISCO at Burnpur

2254. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the restructuring of the Indian Iron and Steel Company at Burnpur continues to be on the active agenda of Government;

(b) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has recently submitted a proposal in this regard involving a funding of approximately Rs. 1,200 crores by Government; and

(c) given the long time already taken for reaching a decision in the matter; would Government be prepared to offer its views on the latest proposal by July 31, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (c) Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited (IISCO) was referred to BIFR in June 1994. Various schemes/proposals for revival and modernisation of IISCO were considered but could not be finalised due mainly to fund constraints. A proposal for modernisation of IISCO by utilisation of funds from the Steel Development Fund (SDF) is under consideration of the Government.

As IISCO has been referred to the BIFR, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

(b) No, Sir.

Gold Mines in Orissa

2255. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gold mines in the country;

(b) whether Government have found gold reserve areas in the country particularly in Orissa;